CLAIMS

1. A firing device for an injector having a barrel-like body with a sliding trigger on one side to eject the dose from a needle at its forward end, the action of the trigger being forwards against a resistance, the device comprising a generally cylindrical housing for the injector, a forward portion of the housing, open at its forward end for projection of the injector needle, containing spring means for exerting a light rearward force on the injector, and a rearward portion of the housing having an axially movable, forward spring-loaded member to cooperate with the injector trigger, an external cocking mechanism operable to energise the spring loading of said member, and an operating element to release that loading to cause the member first, acting through the injector trigger, to shoot the injector forward against the light rearward force of said locator to a needle projecting position, and then to overcome said resistance and operate the trigger to eject the dose from the injector.

2. A firing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spring-loaded member is generally tubular to embrace the injector, a coil spring acting between its rear end and an internal abutment at the rear end of the barrel.

3. A firing device as claimed in claim 2, wherein an axial slot, open from the forward end of the tubular member, receives the trigger and thereby locates the injector rotationally.

4. A firing device as claimed in claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein the cocking mechanism is a sleeve over the rearward portion of the housing with at least one lateral projection from the tubular member projecting through an axially parallel slot in the housing into an axially parallel slot in the sleeve, the cocking action being to pull the sleeve rearwardly so that the projection engaged by the forward end of its slot takes the tubular member with it until there is snap engagement between the tubular member and the barrel, the injector being pushed back at the same time by said spring means.

5. A firing device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the sleeve carries the operating element which can only register in a position to release the snap engagement when the sleeve is moved forwards again after the device has been cocked.

6. A firing device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the operating element is a button which engages in a slot in the housing and which has two different positions between which it can be shifted circumferentially of the sleeve only when that is forwards, wherein in one said position it acts by co-operation with a step in the slot as a preventer against the sleeve being slid rearwardly, that position also being the one, when the sleeve is moved forwards after cocking, in which the device can be fired, and wherein in the other said position, it allows the external sleeve to be slid rearwardly (and forwardly again), but is ineffective, when pressed, to fire the device.

7. A firing device as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1,

wherein the device is for an injector having a rear end rotary adjusting knob to set the amount of dose to be ejected, and wherein the sleeve, in its forward position with the device cocked, leaves this knob exposed whereby, before firing, the user can rotate the knob to the required dosage.

8. A firing device as claimed in claim 7, wherein marks on the knob register with a mark on the end of the sleeve to assist gauging the amount of dosage set.